

### **REMARKS**

Favorable reconsideration of this application in light of the preceding amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Claims 3 and 10 having been canceled and no claims having been added by this amendment, the Applicants respectfully submit that claims 1, 2, 4-9, and 11-20 remain pending in this application with claims 8, 9 and 11-17 having been withdrawn from consideration. Of the pending claims, claims 1, 8, 15 and 18 are written in independent form.

The Applicants note with appreciation the Examiner's suggestions and discussion regarding amendments to the claims to place them in condition for allowance. The Applicants respectfully submit that the amendments to the claims reflected above are consistent with those discussed by the Examiner and the Applicant's representative on February 22, 2005, and February 25, 2005. The Applicants also note with appreciation the Examiner's indication that claims 8, 9 and 11-17, although presently withdrawn from consideration, may be rejoined with the remaining claims and, as reflected above, have amended claims 8, 15 and 17 accordingly.

### **CONCLUSION**

In view of the above remarks and amendments, the Applicants respectfully submit that each of the pending objections and rejections have been addressed and overcome, leaving the present application in condition for allowance. A notice to that effect is respectfully requested.

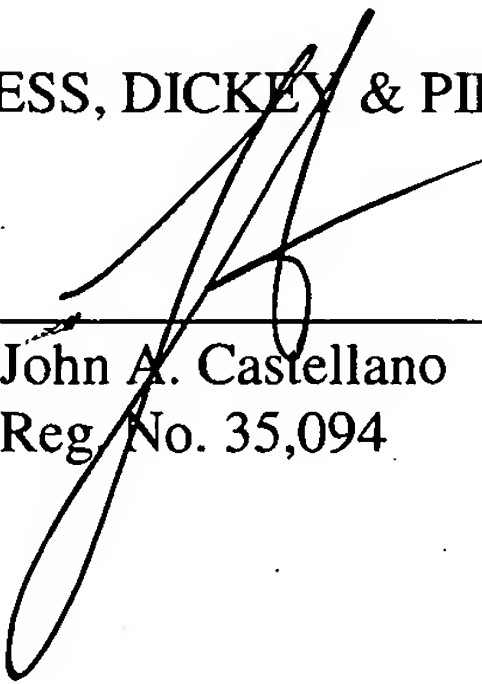
If the Examiner believes that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone at (703) 668-8000.

Although, because the response filed December 17, 2004, was fully responsive to the pending Action, the Applicants respectfully contend that no fees are due in connection with this response, if necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies to charge any underpayment or non-payment of any fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17, or credit any overpayment of such fees, to Deposit Account No. 08-0750, including, in particular, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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